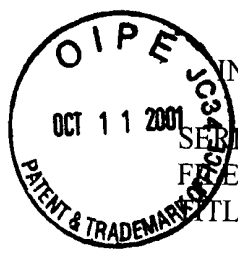


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: JOHN F. T. CONROY, M.E. POWER, AND P. M. NORRIS

SERIAL NO. : 09/785,188

ART UNIT : UNKNOWN

FILED : 02/20/2001

EXAMINER : UNKNOWN

TITLE : SOL-GEL BIOMATERIAL IMMOBILIZATION

RECEIVED

OCT 17 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please rewrite claims 12, 13-15, 17-18, 22, and 24-25 to read as follows. A marked-up version of the amended claims is appended hereto.

12. (Amended) A method comprising:
providing a sol solution having less than 29 mole % organic solvents to make said sol compatible with a cell; and
immobilizing said cell by mixing said cell into said sol.

13. (Amended) A method comprising:
forming a sol containing a hydroxy metallate and an organic solvent;
mixing a biological material with said sol; and
mixing a sufficient amount of a dispersant into said sol to cause macropores in a gel formed by said sol.

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14. (Amended) A sol, comprising:

P moles of a hydroxy metallate;

a sol solution including 71 mole % or more water and 29 mole % or less organic solvents;

and

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